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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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OK

June 24, 2002

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron R. Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DRH*

FROM: Priscilla W. Burton, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Soils *PB*

RE: 4th East Portal Construction, Consolidation Coal Company, Emery Deep Mine, C/015/015

Other Attendees:

Seth McCourt, Consol
Wayne Western, DOGM
Dana Dean, DOGM

Date & Time:

June 20, 2002
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Weather Conditions: Sunny, 85 F, winds gusting from the southeast

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this visit was to ensure topsoil protection during construction of the 4th east portals.

OBSERVATIONS:

The topsoil removal process has created powder out of the subsurface soils. The gusts of wind from the south were carrying clouds of silt into the atmosphere. There was no water truck on site. The contractor's air drill was blowing a lot of dust. Application of a polymer to retard wind erosion was discussed. The website of the International Erosion Control Association was mentioned as a source of information for products.

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

Marker strips on the in-place topsoil were covered with windrows of topsoil and were not observable. Consequently, a contractor was driving over the in-place soils at the northeastern edge of the excavated material pile. A roadway must be delineated for vehicles. The location of the excavated material pile must be flagged.

A load of topsoil approximately 18-inches deep appeared to have been placed on the excavated material pile. This topsoil must be removed and placed on the topsoil pile.

The topsoil pile was formed, but not signed, seeded, or mulched. Use of noxious free mulch was discussed with Mr. McCourt. The application of a tackifier to the topsoil pile was also discussed. Mr. McCourt was going to survey the pile on Friday. If adequate topsoil resources are not held in the topsoil pile, there is still an opportunity to strip the topsoil in the vicinity of the excavated material pile location before excavation begins.

A small area of undisturbed ground remains within the disturbed area along the southwest fence. This undisturbed ground must be flagged to prevent disturbance. The Division biologist should visit the site to confirm baseline conditions indicated in the plan (i.e. 10% cover at the site).

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

A roadway must be designated and watered. The remainder of the site must be treated with a polymer to prevent the soil from becoming airborne. Jeff Dean of the Utah Division of Air Quality was contacted to assist the operator in developing a plan for fugitive dust control.

The estimated volume of topsoil in the topsoil pile must be reported before excavation begins. The topsoil pile must be gouged, seeded, mulched, and sprayed with a tackifier and the pile must be designated with a sign.